

# SERMON NOTES - Gifts of the Spirit 5 - Context

These notes are designed to be read along with the associated audio / video message

The CONTEXT of something is extremely important in understanding it properly. This applies to the gifts of the spirit as listed in 1 Cor 12:4-11

1. ...They were given in the Context of...

## A MISSION

Act 1:4-5, 8 NIV - "4 On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. 5 For John baptised with water, but in a few days you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit." ... 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

WAIT - don't try to do my mission or ministry without my power.

GO - The gifts are given for a purpose - a mission - and not primarily for our own enjoyment or benefit.

2. ...They were given in the Context of...

## OTHER GIFTS AND CHRISTIAN VIRTUES

### A. GIFTS

There are 3 lists of gifts in the New Testament - 1Co 12:4-6 -

- vs 4 There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. - These are listed in 1 Cor 12:8-11
- vs 5 There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. - These are listed in Eph 4:7-12
- vs 6 And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. - These are listed in Rom 12:6-8

### B. CHRISTIAN VIRTUES

All of these supernatural gifts of the Spirit are also represented by virtues that ALL Christians are supposed to have in their lives all the time just because we are believers.

- Word of Wisdom (1 Cor 12:8) - compare Luk 21:14-15, 1Co 2:6-16, Jas 1:5,
- Word of Knowledge (1 Cor 12:8) - compare 2Pe 1:3, 2Pe 3:18, Rom 10:1-3
- Discerning spirits (1 Cor 12:10) - compare 1Th 5:21, Mat 7:15-16, 1Jo 4:1-3
- Faith (1 Cor 12:9) - compare Rom 12:3, Eph 2:8-9, Rom 10:17, 2Th 1:3, Heb 11:6
- Healings (1 Cor 12:9) - compare Heb 1:3, Mat 8:16-17, Isa 53:4-5, 1Pe 2:24, Mat 9:2-6, Psa 103:2-3, Mat 15:25-28, Luk 6:17-19
- Miracles (*dunamis*) (1 Cor 12:10) - compare Eph 1:19-20, Rom 8:11, Eph 3:20
- Prophecy, Tongues, Interpretation (1 Cor 12:10) - compare Act 2:14-18, Act 2:39, Act 2:4, 1 Cor 14:23-24, 31, Jude v 20, Eph 6:18, Rom 8:26-27

### C. A DESCRIPTION OF THESE WORKING TOGETHER

1Co 12:28-31 NKJV - "28 And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues. 29 Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles? 30 Do all have gifts of healings? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? 31 But earnestly desire the best gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way."

3. ...They were given in the Context of...

## LOVE

1Co 13:1-7 NKJV - "1 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. 2 And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. 3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing. 4 Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love

does not parade itself, is not puffed up; 5 does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; 6 does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; 7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things."

**4.** ...They were given in the Context of...

## **A LACK OF CLARITY**

1Co 13:8-13 NKJV - "8 Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away. 9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part. 10 But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away. 11 When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things. 12 For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known. 13 And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love."

1Pe 4:11 NKJV - "11 If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. ..."

...and yet, we must realise these gifts are fallible and can be challenged. They operate in the context of Scripture, of a bigger mission, of love, and of the fact that we are not yet in Heaven fully - we cannot yet see and know and perceive clearly as we will one day in Heaven.

**5.** ...They were given in the Context of...

## **A PRACTICAL EXAMPLE - PAUL**

PAUL's ministry gift (Eph 4) was APOSTLE, but his motivational gifts (Rom 12 - these were also his previous ministry gifts) were PROPHECY AND TEACHING - see Acts 13:1.

His Holy Spirit gifts were mainly discerning spirits and miracles:

- Act 13:8-12 NKJV - "8 But Elymas the sorcerer (for so his name is translated) withstood them, seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith. 9 Then Saul, who also is called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked intently at him 10 and said, "O full of all deceit and all fraud, you son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, will you not cease perverting the straight ways of the Lord? 11 "And now, indeed, the hand of the Lord is upon you, and you shall be blind, not seeing the sun for a time." And immediately a dark mist fell on him, and he went around seeking someone to lead him by the hand. 12 Then the proconsul believed, when he saw what had been done, being astonished at the teaching of the Lord."
- Act 16:17-18 NKJV - "16 Now it happened, as we went to prayer, that a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling. 17 This girl followed Paul and us, and cried out, saying, "These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation." 18 And this she did for many days. But Paul, greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And he came out that very hour."
- Act 16:25-26 NKJV - "25 But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. 26 Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed."
- Act 20:7-12 NKJV - "7 Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight. 8 There were many lamps in the upper room where they were gathered together. 9 And in a window sat a certain young man named Eutychus, who was sinking into a deep sleep. He was overcome by sleep; and as Paul continued speaking, he fell down from the third story and was taken up dead. 10 But Paul went down, fell on him, and embracing him said, "Do not trouble yourselves, for his life is in him." 11 Now when he had come up, had broken bread and eaten, and talked a long while, even till daybreak, he departed. 12 And they brought the young man in alive, and they were not a little comforted."

- [Act 16:6-10 NKJV](#) - "6 Now when they had gone through Phrygia and the region of Galatia, they were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia. 7 After they had come to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit did not permit them. 8 So passing by Mysia, they came down to Troas. 9 And a vision appeared to Paul in the night. A man of Macedonia stood and pleaded with him, saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." 10 Now after he had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go to Macedonia, concluding that the Lord had called us to preach the gospel to them."

Some other verses quoted in this message:

[Mar 11:22-24 NKJV](#) - "22 So Jesus answered and said to them, "Have faith in God. 23 "For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. 24 "Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them."

THOSE WHO DID NOT EXPERIENCE THE HEALING IN THE BIBLE:

- [Gal 4:13](#) - "13 You know that because of physical infirmity I preached the gospel to you at the first."
- [1Ti 5:23](#) - "23 No longer drink only water, but use a little wine for your stomach's sake and your frequent infirmities."
- [2Ti 4:20](#) - "20 Erastus stayed in Corinth, but Trophimus I have left in Miletus sick."

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**WE ALL HAVE ALL OF THESE AVAILABLE TO US AS CHRISTIAN VIRTUES...** but not all as YOUR Holy Spirit gift:

## **WISDOM & KNOWLEDGE**

[Luk 21:14-15 NIV](#) - "14 But make up your mind not to worry beforehand how you will defend yourselves. 15 For I will give you words and wisdom that none of your adversaries will be able to resist or contradict."

[1Co 2:6-16 NKJV](#) — "6 However, we speak **wisdom** among those who are mature, yet not the wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. 7 But we speak the **wisdom** of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory, 13 These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. 14 But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are **spiritually discerned**. 15 But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is rightly judged by no one. 16 For "who has known the mind of the LORD that he may instruct Him?" But we have the **mind of Christ**."

[Jas 1:5 NKJV](#) — "5 If any of you lacks **wisdom**, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him."

[2Pe 1:3 NKJV](#) — "3 as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the **knowledge** of Him who called us by glory and virtue,"

[2Pe 3:18 NKJV](#) — "18 but grow in the grace and **knowledge** of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen."

[Rom 10:1-3 NKJV](#) — "1 Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. 2 For I bear them witness that they have a **zeal** for God, but **not according to knowledge**."

## **DISCERNMENT**

[1Th 5:21 NKJV](#) — "21 **Test** all things; hold fast what is good."

[1Jo 4:1-3 NKJV](#) — "1 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world."

**FAITH** and can increase faith, but this is NOT the supernatural gift of the Spirit called "Faith"

Rom 12:3 - "3 For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith."

Eph 2:8 - "8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,"

Rom 10:17 - "17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

2Th 1:3 - "3 ... your faith **grows** exceedingly..."

Heb 11:6 - without faith it is impossible to please God

**HEALING**, but this is NOT the supernatural gift of the Spirit called "Healings"

JESUS IS THE EXACT IMAGE OF GOD- Jhn 14:9 "seen the Father" , Col 1:15 - " image of invisible" , Heb 1:3 - " brightness of His glory and express image of His person,"

Mat 8:16-17 - "16 When evening had come, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed. And He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick, 17 that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: "He Himself took our infirmities And bore our sicknesses."" (Is 53:4\* see above)

Isa 53:4-5 - "4 Surely He has borne our griefs (sickness) And carried our sorrows (pain)\*; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. 5 But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed."

1Pe 2:24 - "24 who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness--by whose stripes you were healed."

Mat 9:2-6 - "2 Then behold, they brought to Him a paralytic lying on a bed. When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven you." 3 And at once some of the scribes said within themselves, "This Man blasphemes!" 4 But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts? 5 "For which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Arise and walk'? 6 "But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins"--then He said to the paralytic, "Arise, take up your bed, and go to your house."

Psa 103:2-3 — "2 Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
And forget not all His benefits: 3 Who forgives all your iniquities,  
Who heals all your diseases,"

Mat 15:25-28 — "25 Then she came and worshipped Him, saying, "Lord, help me!" 26 But He answered and said, "It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs." 27 And she said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters' table." 28 Then Jesus answered and said to her, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you desire." And her daughter was healed from that very hour."

Luk 6:17-19 - "17 And He came down with them and stood on a level place with a crowd of His disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea and Jerusalem, and from the seacoast of Tyre and Sidon, who came to hear Him and be healed of their diseases, 18 as well as those who were tormented with unclean spirits. And they were healed. 19 And the whole multitude sought to touch Him, for power went out from Him and healed them all."

**MIRACLES** (*dunamis*), but this is NOT the supernatural gift of the Spirit called "Miracles"

Eph 1:19-20 - "19 and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty **power** 20 which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,"

Rom 8:11 - "11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you."

Eph 3:20 - "20 Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the **power** that works in us,"

Eph 2:8 - "8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that **not of yourselves**; it is the gift of God,"

## **PROPHECY, TONGUES, INTERPRETATION**

Act 2:14-18. Act 2:39. Act 2:4. 1 Cor 14:23-24, 31, Jude v 20. Eph 6:18. Rom 8:26-27

# Small group discussion guidelines

Remember that the aim of the small group is to foster discussion and community, rather than for the leader or one individual to preach to everyone.

**1** - Often an **Icebreaker question** is a great way to start discussion. You could ask a question like:

- What were the highs or lows of your week?
- What is your earliest memory?
- If you had to describe yourself as one animal, what would it be and why?
- What is your favourite type of holiday destination?

**2** - Next, **read the passage**. You can ask various people in the group to help by each reading a portion of the passage.

**3** - These are the **main questions** to ask to understand the passage:

- What is the main message of this talk / passage?  
Allow discussion and even diverging from the main topic if it is helpful.
- What did you find particularly helpful or challenging?
- What did you not fully understand?
- What can we do PRACTICALLY in response to this teaching?

**4** - Close by offering **prayer** for each person.

- Ask, "how can we pray for you / each other now?"
- Ask each person to pray or you, as leader, pray for each person's need

**The blessing** and opportunity in Small Groups is the possibility for...

- Each person to contribute and/or ask questions,
- People to pray for each other and to ask for prayer,
- People to learn to use and grow in their gifts,
- Community, friendship and intimacy in relationships.

God Bless you in this very important ministry.